

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed July 8, 2005. Claims 21-32 were rejected. The claims have been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1-20 were originally presented. Claims 1-20 were previously canceled and claims 21-32 were previously added. Claims 21-32 remain in the application. Claims 21 and 28 have been amended. No claims have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 28-32 (including independent claim 28) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hanson (US 6,148,346) in view of Ramberg et al (US 6,847,013) (hereinafter "Ramberg") and Fan et al (US 6,219,706) (hereinafter "Fan").

The Hanson, Ramberg, and Fan references, when combined, do not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 28. Specifically, the Hanson reference does not teach enabling a user to manually send access authorization from the computer located within the local area network to one or more third-party diagnosticians, and the Ramberg and Fan references do not overcome that deficiency.

Independent claim 28, as amended, sets forth in part:

enabling a user to manually send access authorization from the computer located within the local area network to one or more third-party diagnosticians, wherein the one or more third-party diagnosticians do not have access to the local area network without said access authorization; and (See Specification, Page 10, Lines 18-21)

Hanson does not teach or suggest a method of enabling a user to manually send access authorization from a LAN computer to a third-party diagnostician. The Office Action states that Hanson allows access to users outside the network using a firewall. Firewalls generally block

access between multiple networks and the Internet as in FIG. 1. The only mention of a firewall in Hanson is a discussion of allowing a network administrator to set network options for a proxy server. The proxy server handles requests, caching, and/or data destined for machines located inside the firewall. (See Col. 6, Lines 53-62).

The only discussion in Hanson of communicating with a printer outside the LAN is a brief discussion of using a dynamic driver to enable an operating system to communicate with peripherals “connected on the Internet 22, such as printer 36.” (See Col. 4, Lines 10-20, FIG. 1). Hanson is essentially silent as to what this means or how one might accomplish what the Examiner has said Hanson is able to do. Applicant interprets FIG. 1 of Hanson in correlation with Hanson’s discussion to mean that each of the devices within Network A can modify the printer settings within Network A.

FIG. 1 further illustrates that a printer 36 is accessible through the WWW (World Wide Web). What this means is that the printer has a web server inside the printer which can be accessed via a web port through a firewall. Thus, users can make changes to the printer settings using web pages. However, it is possible for the web access (port 8080) and all other access to network A to be blocked by the firewall. In this event, the present invention is valuable because a user inside the network can grant temporary access a printer technician.

Despite the fact that FIG. 1 shows two company LANS connected through firewalls, there is no mention in the specification of how the computers on the LAN can communicate with computers or peripherals on a separate LAN. Further, there is no discussion of how peripherals outside of a LAN may be protected from unwanted access.

The Office Action further states that a firewall is explained by Fan. Fan discloses several types of protocols such as TCP, SMTP, ACL, and H.323. The protocols are designed to enable computers to automatically recognize and authorize appropriate communication. Firewalls inspect packets to determine if they should be transmitted or dropped. (See Fan, Col. 1, Lines 12-14). Firewalls are not designed to enable a user to manually send access authorization to a third-party diagnostician. Thus, Fan does not teach or suggest enabling a user to manually send access authorization from the computer located within the local area network to one or more third-party diagnosticians

Ramberg discloses a system and method for remotely diagnosing and repairing a plurality of Automatic Device Collection platforms. An automated system is configured to communicate with the device platforms via predetermined languages and protocols. Ramberg does not disclose a method of enabling a user to manually send access authorization from a LAN computer to a third-party diagnostician.

Thus, the combination of Hanson, Ramberg, and Fan would necessarily constitute a method for remote management of a printing device which does not teach or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 28 of the present invention. The combination of elements as recited in claim 28 are not all disclosed in the cited references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 28 is allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Rejection of dependent claims 29-32 should be reconsidered and withdrawn for at least the reasons given above with respect to the independent claim. The dependent claims, being narrower in scope, are allowable for at least the reasons for which the independent claim is allowable.

Claims 21-27 (including independent claim 21) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hanson (US 6,148,346) in view of Wood et al (US 6,453,127) (hereinafter “Wood”) and Fan et al (US 6,219,706) (hereinafter “Fan”).

The Office Action states that Hanson teaches a user interface comprising a share feature configured to allow a user within a LAN to enable a third-party to view otherwise private printer information at column 6, lines 15-30. However, the administrative maintenance menu GUI disclosed in Hanson merely discloses a “set printer name or password” button that provides for installation of a new printer *on the network*. Hanson further discloses that if printer access is to be password protected, the system administrator can assign a password to the GUI menu. Thus, Hanson does not teach a share feature configured to enable a user within a LAN to **manually allow** a third-party to view otherwise private information. Rather, Hanson merely discloses a GUI that allows an administrator to install a printer and safeguard printer access.

The access control system of Fan and apparatus for remote printing of Wood do not overcome this deficiency. The Office Action states that a combination of Hanson and Wood “would have allowed a service person to gain access to of the diagnostic data of a printer from

anywhere in the world as long as he has a computer connected to the internet.” However, as disclosed in claim 21, a third party diagnostician cannot gain access to the diagnostic data of a printer unless a user within the local area network **manually activates** a share feature configured to give the third-party access. The third party does not normally have access prior to the user’s use of the share feature. This is not disclosed in any of the cited prior art, or their combination. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 21 is allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Rejection of dependent claims 22-27 should be reconsidered and withdrawn for at least the reasons given above with respect to the independent claim. The dependent claims, being narrower in scope, are allowable for at least the reasons for which the independent claim is allowable.

CONCLUSION

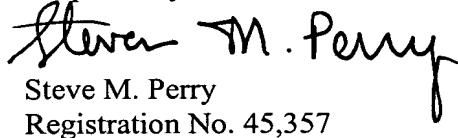
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 21-32 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call Steve Perry at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

No claims were added. Therefore, no additional fee is due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

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Respectfully submitted,


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